

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149024

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY
SISCO; MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION.

1. AMBASSADOR GRANFIL CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON UNDER
SECRETARY SISCO JUNE 24 TO DISCUSS FURTHER THE JUNE 23
BOMBING OF THE YUGOSLAV MISSION TO THE UN. (SISCO HAD
TELEPHONED GRANFIL THE MORNING OF JUNE 24 TO DEPLORE THIS
ACT OF VIOLENCE, TO EXPRESS THE DEPARTMENT'S DEEP REGRET
THEREFOR, AND TO OUTLINE THE MEASURES THE USG HAD TAKEN
IN ITS WAKE.)

2. GRANFIL DESCRIBED HIS CALL AS A "VERY UNPLEASANT
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OCCASION" FOR HIM PERSONALLY. HE THANKED SISCO FOR HIS
PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MATTER AND VOICED THE YUGO-
SLAV EMBASSY'S APPRECIATION FOR THE "GOOD COOPERATION" IT

HAD RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

3. GRANFIL THEN INDICATED THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO DELIVER A FORMAL NOTE PERTAINING TO THE BOMBING. (THE TEXT OF THE NOTE, WHICH REGISTERS THE GOY'S "MOST ENERGETIC PROTEST" REGARDING THE BOMBING AND SPEAKS OF "TOTALLY INADEQUATE PROTECTION" OF THE MISSION, FOLLOWS VIA SEPTTEL.)

AFTER HANDING SISCO THE NOTE, GRANFIL SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WISHED TO PREVENT THE BOMBING FROM HAVING A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE BOMBING AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE HIS GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO AN ENERGETIC INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT AND THE PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO PERPETRATED IT. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT, SAID GRANFIL, THAT THIS KIND OF ACT NOT RPT NOT BE REPEATED BECAUSE OF THE REPERCUSSIONS THIS WOULD HAVE WITHIN THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT, ON YUGOSLAV PUBLIC OPINION AND ON PUBLIC OPINION IN THE US.

4. WITHOUT NAMING ANY SPECIFIC ORGANIZATIONS OR ETHNIC GROUPS, GRANFIL IMPLICITLY ATTRIBUTED THE BOMBING TO YUGOSLAV EMIGRES. HE SUGGESTED THAT ONE OF THE TWO FOLLOWING EMIGRE GROUPS MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBING:

(A) CHETNIKS/SOPO (SERBIAN EMIGRE EXTREMISTS) WHO WERE LINKED BY SOME WITH THE 1967 BOMBING OF YUGOSLAV MISSIONS IN THE US AND CANADA; AND (B) THE CROATIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (HRVATSKO NARODNO VIJECE), A CROATIAN SEPARATIST ORGANIZATION. GRANFIL SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT THE INTENTION OF THE PERPETRATOR(S) OF THIS ACT WAS TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM PRESIDENT FORD'S ANNOUNCED PLANS TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA AND TO COMPLICATE US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS.

5. GRANFIL EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE HIS GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO BETTER PROTECTION FOR THE YUGOSLAV UN MISSION.
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HE SUGGESTED THAT FULL-TIME PROTECTION OF THE MISSION NOW SEEMS NECESSARY AND NOTED THAT THE MISSION HAD REQUESTED SUCH PROTECTION TWICE IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS.

6. SISCO OBSERVED THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHARES THE GOY'S INTEREST IN PREVENTING THIS INCIDENT FROM HAVING AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON OVERALL US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS AND ON THE PRESIDENT'S PLANS TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA THIS YEAR. HE THEN LISTED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE US GOVERNMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE BOMBING: (A) THE NYCPD AND FBI LAUNCHED AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT

AND THIS INVESTIGATION IS BEING PURSUED VIGOROUSLY; (B) ADDITIONAL PROTECTION IS BEING PROVIDED TO ALL OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE US; (C) THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT DESIGNED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE USG DOES NOT CONDONE THIS TYPE OF ACTION.

7. SISCO THEN REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION. HE NOTED THAT NO ONE, INCLUDING THE MEMBERS OF THE YUGOSLAV UN MISSION, HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE NAMES OF POSSIBLE SUSPECTS, AND THAT NO RPT NO GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL HAS MADE A CONVINCING CLAIM TO HAVE PERPETRATED THIS ACT. THE AUTHORITIES HAVE APPARENTLY RECOVERED A FUSE AND SOME RESIDUE FROM THE EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AND ARE EXAMINING THEM CAREFULLY. NO RPT NO HARD LEADS HAVE YET MATERIALIZED.

8. SISCO STRESSED ONCE AGAIN OUR STRONG CONVICTION THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE USE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST YUGOSLAV OR OTHER FOREIGN ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE US AND UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO ENSURING THE SECURITY OF YUGOSLAV ESTABLISHMENTS. HE MADE IT PLAIN, HOWEVER, THAT WE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE CONTENTION THAT WE HAVE NOT PROVIDED ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR THE YUGOSLAV UN MISSION AND OTHER OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE US.

9. GRANFIL SAID HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO IMPLY THAT THE USG HAD NOT PROVIDED APPROPRIATE PROTECTION FOR YUGOSLAV ESTABLISHMENTS IN WASHINGTON AND OTHER CITIES. HE WAS REALLY CONCERNED ONLY WITH MORE ADEQUATE PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL
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THE YUGOSLAV UN MISSION. IN THIS REGARD, GRANFIL SAID HE WISHED TO CALL SISCO'S ATTENTION TO TWO NOTES THE YUGOSLAV UN MISSION HAD SENT TO US MISSION UN IN RECENT MONTHS REQUESTING "PERMANENT POLICE PROTECTION" FOR THE YUGOSLAV MISSION.

10. SISCO AND GRANFIL AGREED THEY WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT ON THIS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. KISSINGER

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